

# MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

**FY 2014 Project Plan**

**For-Hire Programs: Inventory, Certification, and Integration Planning**

**Created on 10/28/2013**

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**Operations Team**

# **1. Overview**

## **1.1. Background**

During a recent ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee meeting, several states had questions on the party-charter logbook process and the possibility of coordinating reporting needs. Specifically, North Carolina will be implementing mandatory logbooks for the party-charter fisheries in 2014 and they are requesting a one-stop reporting method. ACCSP suggested an information-gathering discussion of: a) What are the current state and federal reporting requirements for party-charter boats? b) what is the MRIP process of using or referencing party-charter VTR reports? and c) are there opportunities to reduce duplicate reporting / surveying of party-charter vessels and/or captains?

The 2009 MRIP Consultants Report on For-Hire Recreational Fisheries Surveys identified overlaps in sampling. MRIP has shown interest in resolving the layered reporting (MA, MD and SC and others have logbooks that potentially overlap with multiple federal programs such as NE-VTR and SE-Headboat). If a state can meet timeliness and availability of logbooks, MRIP has options to include the information as 1) enter logbook data as “samples” or 2) if state logbooks are census then use logbooks instead of MRIP survey for that state, or 3) use logbooks as checkpoint (not validation) for MRIP survey reporting and dockside data. Now is the appropriate time to limit the burden on fishermen while obtaining all the necessary data on the right timeline for the various data collection programs.

In commercial fisheries ACCSP was involved in setting standards and helping to coordinate reporting to improve timeliness and availability of data, as well as reduce duplicate reporting of wholesale dealers. While it is noted in the MRIP Consultant’s Report that for-hire data collection programs overlap in scope and participants, there remains a need for integration of various for-hire data collection activities. The report also highlights the desire to collect logbook data that could be used as a census. It is recognized that there would need to be program changes to minimize duplicate reporting. However, we expect there are some short term, achievable opportunities to align state agency priorities of reporting compliance with MRIP goals of efficient and timely data collection.

## **1.2. Project Description**

ACCSP proposes to update the Atlantic coast inventory of For-Hire data collection programs, previously compiled by the MRIP For-Hire workgroup. The updated inventory will include clarification of program requirements and data needs to support agency specific objectives. The updated inventory will be summarized and used as a basis for a workshop to identify opportunities to promote data availability, improve data timeliness, and reduce the reporting burden by integrating the various data collection programs. MRIP priorities to be addressed include: further developing MRIP funded reviews of data collection programs, evaluation of ongoing catch-effort

surveys, and assessment of data needs (timeliness). The expected outcomes of the workshop include submission of a certification plan (of method or programs) to integrate the data from various for-hire data collection programs into the MRIP catch-effort estimation process. Additional benefits may include reduction of duplicate reporting burden on for-hire operators.

### **1.3. Objectives**

- Update the Atlantic Coast Inventory of For-Hire Data collection programs (report by the MRIP For-Hire workgroup, 2008)
- Evaluate ongoing for-hire data collection programs, including MRIP and other state and federal administered programs.
- Identify opportunities to improve timeliness and reduce reporting burden while meeting the goals of catch estimation and agency reporting compliance.
- Submit a certification plan (of methods or data collection programs) to integrate the data from various programs into the MRIP estimation process.

### **1.4. References**

- Inventory of For-Hire Data Collections in the United States and US Territories (by the MRIP For-Hire workgroup), 2008.
- Consultants Report: For-Hire Recreational Fisheries Surveys, March 2009.
- Minutes, ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee, Sept 2013.

## **2. Methodology**

### **2.1. Methodology**

- a. Methodology: ACCSP will construct a steering committee to guide the process, hire a contractor to update the Atlantic coast For-Hire inventory of data collection programs, and convene a workshop for state and federal agency staff
- b. Geographic Coverage: Maine to Florida.
- c. Temporal Coverage: May 2014-May 2015
- d. Frequency: Data Collection program inventory will occur one time, and one workshop shall be convened.
- e. Unit of Analysis: The project will be done at the level of for-hire data collection program and state/federal agency requirements.
- f. Collection Mode: For-hire data collection program staff will be contacted via telephone interviews and web surveys.

### **2.2. Regions**

Mid-Atlantic, North Atlantic, South Atlantic

### **2.3. Geographic Coverage**

Maine to East Coast of Florida

### **2.4. Temporal Coverage**

2014

### **2.5. Frequency**

One time

### **2.6. Unit of Analysis**

### **2.7. Collection Mode**

For-Hire

### **3. Communications Plan**

#### **3.1. Internal**

Monthly conference calls among the project lead and steering committee.

#### **3.2. External**

Monthly progress reports to the MRIP Operations team in MDMS. Submission of updated inventory and documented options to reduce duplicate reporting in for-hire fisheries to the MRIP operations team.

## **4. Assumptions and Constraints**

### **4.1. New Data**

No

### **4.2. Track Costs**

Yes

### **4.3. Funding Vehicle**

Grant to ACCSP

### **4.4. Data Resources**

### **4.5. Other Resources**

### **4.6. Regulations**

### **4.7. Other**

5. Risk

5.1. Project Risk

Table 1: Project Risk

Risk Description	Risk Impact	Risk Probability	Risk Mitigation Approach
Non-response of current For-Hire programs to update inventory	incomplete scope of inventory	Low	Allow time for multiple contacts, and invite program leads to workshop to include major for-hire data collection programs in the workshop.

## **6. Final Deliverables**

### **6.1. Additional Reports**

Inventory ATL. For-Hire programs, Workshop Report, Action/Certification/Integration Plan.

### **6.2. New Data Sets**

### **6.3. New Systems**



# 7. Project Leadership

## 7.1. Project Leader and Members

Table 2: Project Members

Project Role	Name	Organization	Title
Team Leader	Mike Cahall	ACCSP	ACCSP Director
Team Member	Geoff White	ACCSP	ACCSP data team

## 8. Project Estimates

### 8.1. Project Schedule

Table 3: Project Schedule - Major Tasks and Milestones

#	Schedule Description	Planned Start	Planned Finish	Prerequisites	Milestones
1	Convene Steering Committee, define questions and procure contractor to complete inventory update	05/05/2014	06/19/2014		
2	Update For-Hire Program Inventory for Atlantic Coast	06/02/2014	09/30/2014		Y
3	Workshop Preparation	07/21/2014	11/03/2014		
4	Convene Workshop (1-2 days)	11/03/2014	12/12/2014	1,2	Y
5	Complete Workshop report and Certification Plan	01/05/2015	02/27/2015	3	Y

### 8.2. Cost Estimates

Table 4: Cost Estimates

Project Need	Cost Description	Date Needed	Estimated Cost
Staff Support	ASMFC Overhead	05/01/2014	\$9000.00
Contractor Support	Contractor update of Inventory via interview process	05/01/2014	\$50000.00

Travel	Travel for workshop	10/15/2014	\$40000.00
TOTAL			\$99000.00